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TS 141158

Approved For Release 2001/04/05 : CIA-RDP86B01053R000100070005-3

FEB 24 1956

MEMORANDUM TO: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Emergency Action Papers

REFERENCE : Cabinet Paper dtd 2 Feb 56 (CP-45) by M. M. Rabb,  
Secretary to the Cabinet, Subj: "Emergency Action  
Papers" 143204

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation which is contained in paragraph 2.

2. I am not aware of any emergency action which we might want to have invoked by the President under the circumstances contemplated and which would require prior depositing of an Emergency Action Paper. It is believed that our authority for implementing certain actions under those circumstances exists now in basic law and in the form of National Security Council Directives and commitments and agreements made with other agencies of the Government.

3. During the course of past negotiations with the Office of Defense Mobilization on this subject Mr. Lawrence R. Houston, General Counsel, requested that we be made aware of any wartime legislation, executive orders or other emergency action papers proposed by other departments or agencies of the Government which might in any way affect our wartime mission. A recent conference with Mr. Innis Harris, Deputy to the Assistant Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization for Plans and Readiness, disclosed that a mechanism has been set up within the Bureau of the Budget for screening all proposed Emergency Action Papers to determine that proper coordination has been effected with all agencies having a present or potential wartime interest therein.

4. Through our established channel of liaison with the Bureau of the Budget, steps are being taken to assure that the mechanism described above will be fully responsive to our needs.

5. In the light of these facts, I would recommend that you be present at the Cabinet meeting at which this proposal will be discussed in order to make sure that there is complete understanding concerning our role and our proposed procedures for invoking emergency actions on our own motion.

O-SPA/DD/S:EPO:MWB:rh

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L. K. WHITE  
Deputy Director

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SOURCE	DD/S	CIA CONTROL NO.	T/S 141158
DOC. NO.		DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED	
DOC. DATE	24 Feb 56	LOGGED BY	25X1A
COPY NO.	3 of 4		
NUMBER OF PAGES	1		
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS	None		

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